



UPWARD BASKETBALL CRISIS

We need to make a crucial decision as to whether to continue the Upward Basketball ministry. We need to know if the church wants to continue this ministry. Next week you will be asked to decide whether you will be willing to commit to serve as a coach, referee or help with evaluations. The response we receive from the church will determine whether we continue this ministry. The time commitments are as follows:

- Coach: 1 hour practice/wk beginning in December & 1 game/wk
- Referee: 1 or more games on Saturday (max time 9-3pm)
- Evaluations: 2 Saturdays (Oct/Nov) 9-12pm

The Upward Basketball season lasts for 8 weeks (Jan-Feb). Last year we had over 180 children participate who heard the Gospel, and received devotional guides. In addition, family members were exposed to the Gospel each week.

On August 3rd and 10th we will be providing a bulletin insert. In this insert you will be asked to volunteer in one of these three key areas. The response from the church will determine whether or not we can continue in this ministry. Please pray about serving in this ministry.

DEACON ELECTION

The following men have been nominated to serve as deacons:

Jon Bloomfield	Garry Hopper	Charles Rice
Danny Brown	Jerry Johns	Don Whitt
Scott Curry	Andy Lowe	
Len Hogan	Larry Maddox	

The constitution of our church outlines the following qualifications to be considered:

1. Be a Christian for at least 4 years
2. He shall be 25 years of age or older
3. Be a member of First Baptist Church for 1 year prior to election
4. Consciously endeavor to attend all regular meetings and all deacon's meetings.
5. Be active in the ministering and outreach program of the church.
6. Practice a Bible plan of tithing at least 10% of his income for the work of Christ through the local church
7. Live by the standards set forth in Acts 6:1-3 and 1 Timothy 3:8-13.

The church will elect 5 men to serve as deacons for 3 years on August 10 during the morning services. Absentee ballots will be available Wed., Aug. 6 in the church office.

NEW BIBLE DRILL CYCLE

For several weeks our leaders have been making plans and some of our drillers have been anxious to begin the new cycle. We are excited to announce that this year we will have a Bible Drill / Speakers' Tournament Program for our High School Youth (grades 10-12). There will also be groups for Youth (grades 7-9) and Children (grades 1-3 and 4-6). All of the groups will be learning to find the books in their Bible quickly and memorizing verses and Key Passages assigned to their age level. In addition to learning the Bible material High School Youth may choose to prepare a speech for the Speaker's Tournament.

Children (grades 4-6) and Youth (grades 7-12) will also have the opportunity to go to Shocco Springs in January for the State retreat. If you want to know more about this wonderful weekend, ask one of our Youth who went last year.

Last year was the first time we enlisted Bible Drill encouragers. The response from our church family was great and made a big difference in our program. The encouragers truly stood behind the program, backing it with their prayers and acts of encouragement to individual drillers. It was so important for our Youth and Children to feel the support and encouragement of adults in our church. Soon we will be inviting you to sign up again to be Bible Drill Encouragers for our new cycle. The most important request we have for Encouragers is their prayer support. This year you also may want to encourage the program with special financial contributions to the cost of the Shocco Springs Retreat and purchase of additional Bible Drill Bibles.



2008 Bible Drill Team backed by their Encouragers

Sunday, August 3, 2008, all Children and Youth and their parents are invited to meet at 4:30 in Fellowship Hall for Refreshments and Registration. That evening after meeting together we will break into our various age groups to see our rooms, meet our workers, and get age group information. Our regular meetings will begin on Sunday, August 10.

Mark your calendars with these dates for next spring:

- Sunday, March 22 -- Church Bible Drill
- Sunday, April 5 -- Associational Bible Drill
- Thursday, April 16 and Tuesday, April 21 -- District Drills
- Saturday, April 25 -- State Bible Drill

Church News/Events

CONNECTION CLASS

Sundays in August at 9:45PM downstairs in the basement. If you are considering joining Centre First Baptist, this class will give you an opportunity to learn more about our church.

CHILDREN'S MUSIC with Billy Garrett

Starts Sun. Aug. 10 at 6 PM

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES at ROC

Activities will resume at the ROC beginning Sept. 3

First Baptist Church Youth Attending YWAM

John Sides, son of missionaries Dean and Lisa Sides, is planning to attend Youth with a Mission in Australia. During John's stay at YWAM he will be attending intensive discipleship training, engaging in short-term mission trips and involved in a mercy ministry. The cost for 6 months at YWAM is \$6,000. To date First Baptist has given \$1,340.00. As his home church, please consider giving a special offering to help John raise the needed funds. Simply mark "John Sides" on your love offering envelope.

CHRISTIAN COUNSELING AVAILABLE

Dr. David Miller is now taking appointments. Please call the church office at 927-3316.

ATTENTION Sunday School Teachers

On the first Sunday of each month you will find an additional list attached to your S.S. attendance sheets. This list will give a summary of the previous month's attendance. Please note absentees and contact them. Postage paid postcards are available in the church office to mail out to your absentees.

YOUNG AT HEART

The Young at Heart will meet Tues., August 12, 10:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a covered dish and join the fun.

YOUNG AT HEART TRIP

"ROCKETTES" at BJCC in Birmingham on Fri., Dec. 12. Space is limited—call now to sign-up or come by the church office.

We Are LIVE On The Air!

We are now on WZTQ 1560AM Joy Christian Radio during the 11 AM worship celebration. The service is presented live in its entirety. Be sure to let those unable to attend service know about this ministry. This is a listener supported ministry. The broadcast costs \$50/week. Please pray for this wonderful ministry outreach.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT THE ROC

Volunteers needed to answer the phone and work the desk. Contact Sheila at 927-6342.

Steven's SCOOP

We are back from the mission trip and the Lord really blessed. It was amazing to be able to use what God has given us, ability, to help others who really need help. All 11 of us were touched and changed through the experience and we want to say thank you.

We would like to thank you, the church, for all of the support you provided us: through baking things, sponsoring a youth, buying baked goods, donations, prayer and your love. The way you supported the youth through this endeavor was great. Many are already looking forward to next year.

Sunday night August 3rd Bro. Jim is giving us the Sunday Night Service. During the service we will tell about the trip, have some videos and many testimonies. Please come and hear all that God did on our mission trip this year.

Wow summer is almost gone. This has been a crazy and fun but extremely short time. The youth and children have done some amazing things this summer. I hope you had a chance to get involved with us this summer. But just because the summer is drawing to an end does not mean things stop here at CFBC. Just a taste of what is coming: RAs, GAs, Bible Drills, JUDGEMENT HOUSE, fall festival, Enfuego just to name a few. Looking forward to seeing you the rest of the year.

In His love, Steve

CAN & QUARTER DRIVE

During the month of August, we will be collecting non-perishable food items and money to donate to the Crisis Center.

Welcome New Members

Marrisa Augustyn—7/6/08 by baptism

Jessie Banks—7/6/08 by baptism

Barbara Acrey—7/20/08 by letter

SYMPATHY NOTE

Christian love and sympathy is extended to the family of James Hopper; to the family of Will Dykes; to Gail Bloomfield on the death of her mother, Loreane Lightfoot; to Jay Machleit on the death of his grandfather, J. C. Butler; to Alvatine Blackwell on the death of her sister, Margaret Garner and sister-in-law, Leola Nelson; and to the family of E. B. Lyons.

90th Birthday Celebration for Beatrice League

Sunday, August 17
2:00-4:00 PM at the ROC
No gifts please



Brandon's Beat

Reconciling Suffering with the Nature of God Part 3

Knowing that we were created with free will attests to the argument that Lucifer was cast out of Heaven onto the earth before man was created. What's the point of free will after all? God wants us to choose Him. If there had been no potential of a fall then there would have been no actual free will, other than the free will of what fruit to eat for supper. It seems like a setup doesn't it? Why would a loving God create us with free will, and put us square in the face of temptation knowing that we would choose rebellion over obedience, and thus suffer until He returns two incarnations later (Christ's incarnation being the first, and the second coming being the second)? Let's flick a switch in our brains. Let's begin to think of sin-induced suffering as more of a practical event than one of philosophical implications. Suffering is absolutely not meaningless. Christ spoke on several accounts concerning suffering. He said that suffering was 'for God's glory', and so that 'God's Son might be glorified through it', and so that 'the work of God might be displayed'. Taking these statements into account we begin to understand that suffering is a cog in the machine of God's ultimate plan of redemption.

The problem comes when we try to argue that this life is the most important phase of our soul's eternal existence. As Christians we must remember that we are aliens here, and suffering is the native ruler. We can't allow spiritual scales to grow over our eyes. Issues arise when we believe Satan's lie that temporary suffering in this life is greater than the result of that suffering in the next.

Why were we created in the first place? For God's glory and enjoyment. The Bible states, "All things were created by Him and for Him". We were created for His pleasure. Upon first consideration most Christians don't take issue with this, but when the idea is further examined most grimace at the idea that the origin of our existence is rooted in bringing glory and pleasure to God, and has nothing to do with us enjoying ourselves. Our physical comfort does not eclipse our duty to have God delight in us.

To be continued...

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT



Evan Brent and Case McCallen Hill were born July 27. Evan weighed 5 pounds 13 ounces and was 20 1/4 inches long. Case was 5 pounds 3 ounces and 19 1/4 inches long. Evan and Case are the sons of Brent and Angie Hill. Proud grandparents are Ronnie & Elaine Adrain.

Theological Corner: God's Election

Our journey through the first chapter of Ephesians, has led us to encounter the question of God's election. For example, in Ephesians 1:4 Paul tells the believers that "He [God] chose us in Him before the foundation of the world."

Election can be defined as "God's choosing of a people to enjoy the benefits of salvation and to carry out God's purposes in the world" (*Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms*, p. 88). According to Paul, God's election of individuals occurred "before the foundation of the world." His election took place before individuals had an opportunity to respond in faith.

Throughout the years the doctrine of election has caused great consternation and confusion. There are those who argue that God has elected some to go to heaven therefore, He must also elect some to go to hell. However, the Bible *never* speaks of God electing individuals to hell. The Scriptures make it clear that unbelief condemns a person to hell.

Others argue that God's election cancels human freedom. However in the very same passage in Ephesians Paul makes it clear that Christians are those who heard the word of truth and then responded in belief (Eph 1:13). The Bible never speaks of an unbelieving person as "elect."

As one can see, there is a tension between God's election of a person before the foundation of the world and human free will. On the one hand, only those who believe in Christ receive salvation, yet all who believe have been elected by God before they believed.

How do we resolve the tension? First, we must accept the fact that we will never fully resolve this tension. The Bible teaches that God is sovereign and elects, but humanity has the freedom to accept or reject God's offer. Second, we must rejoice in the benefits of God's election. Wayne Grudem (*Systematic Theology*, p. 669-691) argues that God's election provides the following benefits:

- 1) God's election is a comfort. Believers should take comfort in the fact that they are elect by God,
- 2) God's election is a reason to praise God. We should praise God (as Paul repeatedly does in Ephesians 1) for choosing us to be His children, and
- 3) God's election should be an encouragement to evangelism. The elect of God are "out there" and we have the responsibility to share the Gospel with them giving them the opportunity to respond. If they respond when you witness to them, you get the joy of seeing a person come to faith in Christ.

Pastor Jim

First Baptist Church of Centre The Beacon

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Connect, Commit, Impact

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday	Wednesday at the Church
8:45 a.m. <i>IMPACT Contemporary Worship</i>	3:00 p.m. <i>Prayer Service</i>
9:45 a.m. <i>Bible Study</i>	
11:00 a.m. <i>Traditional Worship</i>	Wednesday at the ROC
4:00 p.m. <i>Youth Bible Drill</i>	6:15 p.m. <i>CHAOS-Youth Bible Study</i>
4:30 p.m. <i>Children's Bible Drill</i>	
4:30 p.m. <i>Adult Choir</i>	<i>Fridays at the ROC</i>
6:00 p.m. <i>Children's Music</i>	5:15 p.m. <i>Celebrate Recovery</i>
6:00 p.m. <i>Evening Service</i>	

Want your life back?



Celebrate Recovery

On the campus
of the ROC
Every Friday Night
at 5:30 p.m.

A safe place to
work through your hurts,
habits, & hang-ups.

WELCOME CENTER GREETERS

- 8-3 Ruth Brannon, Bonnie Murphy, Matt Woodfin
- 8-10 Graham & Billie Brown, Lana Evans
- 8-17 Scott & Lynn Curry, Ruth Matthews
- 8-24 Doug & Frances Newman, Gail Hayes
- 8-31 Colette Brovan, Sue Owens, Troy Patterson

DEACON OF THE WEEK

- Aug. 3-9
James Burkhart 526-8346
- Aug. 10-16
Kevin Green 927-8118
- Aug. 17-23
Vince Studdard 927-5312
- Aug. 24-30
Morgan Dykes 927-8564
- Aug. 31-Sept. 6
Kevin Grimes 927-3639

CHURCH OFFICE

927-3316
Fax: 927-8483
www.fbc-centre.org

ROC

927-6342

Shepherd's Fold

Daycare
927-6345

MINISTERS

Dr. Jim Wright
Pastor
927-4487

Rev. Steven Langford
Minister of Youth &
Children

Rev. Brandon Snow
Minister of Music/Media

STAFF

Tina McCord
Office Manager/Financials

Joyce Woodfin
Secretary

Sheila Barrett
ROC Administrator



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